

No. 70.

# A WAY to prevent the Indignation and Judgments of God from coming on a Kingdom, Nation or Family; Commended to the Consciences of all Concerned.

**F**IRST, All you *Vintners* that sell *Wine*, that keep *Taverns* or such like Houses; and all you *Inn-keepers*, and you that keep *Victualling-Houses*, *Ale-Houses*, *Strong-Water-Shops*, &c. see that you never let any Man or Woman have any more *Wine*, *Ale*, *strong Drink*, *Brandy* or *strong Waters*, or other *strong Liquors*, than what is for their *Health* and their *Good*; in that they may praise God for his Good Creatures. For every Creature of God is Good, and ought to be received with *Thanksgiving*.

But if you do give or let Men or Women have so much *Wine*, *Brandy*, *strong Liquors*, *strong Beer* or *Ale*, till they be *Drunk* or to make them *Drunk*;

1. You destroy the good *Creatures* of God.
2. You destroy them, that have not power over their *Lusts*, no more than a *Rat* or a *Swine*, who will *Drink* till they are *Drunk*.

3. You are a great cause of *Ruining* them in their *Healths*, *Purses* and *Estates*, (their *Children* and *Families*) in feeding of them in their *Lusts*, by letting them have more than doth them good; which also tends to bring *God's Judgments* upon you, to your own ruin and *Destruction*.

For many when they are full of *Wine*, *Beer* or *Strong Liquors*, then they will cry for *Musick*, *Pipe* and *Harp*, and it may be their *Wives* also: And so in this, you that suffer or allow such things, are *Nursers* of *Debauchery* and *Corrupters* of them, and of your own *Families* also.

And also such Men, when they are full of *Wine* or *Strong Liquors*, and have destroyed the *Creatures*, by taking more than doth them good, then they are got to that height that they are ready to *Quarrel* and *Abuse*, or *Kill* or *Destroy* one another, & sometimes *Kill* other People (who do them no harm) as they are *walking* or *travelling* in the *Streets* or *High-ways*. For when they are overcome by *strong Liquors*, then are they fit & doly open to all manner of wickedness.

And though you think by selling or letting People have *Wine* or *Strong Liquors* more than doth them good, or is for their *Health*, *The more they Drink, the more Gain you think it brings you*; and the more you vend your Goods, the more Profit you get: Ah poor *Sellers*! Do not you think, that God with his all-seeing Eye doth behold you and your Actions? And cannot the Lord soon bring a *Blasting* upon all your Undertakings and such *Ungodly Gain* and *Profits*, and whatsoever you have gained by your *Covetousness* and from the *Lusts* of others, through which they do destroy their *Estates*, *Children* & *Families*? Will not this bring *destruction* upon you and your *unrighteous Gain*, which you have gotten by feeding their *Lusts*? For that which feeds the *Destroying Lusts*, must needs be the *Destroyer*; and the *Profit* of that will not be *Gain* to you in the end.

For are not you sensible, how many, after they have spent their *Estates* or part of them, they will run into

your *Debts* for *Wine* or *strong Liquors*, yea, such as you let have more than did or doth them good? And is not this the cause, that many *break* by *trusting*, and other ways as before mentioned? *Trust* should be with that which is *Trusty*, which doth not *Wast* or *Destroy*; and such God will bless. And therefore take heed of letting any Man or Woman have any more *Wine* or *strong Liquors*, than what is for their *nourishment*, *health* and *good*.

See what a dreadful *Wo* the Lord pronounced against them, *That rise up early in the morning, that they may follow Strong Drink, that continue until night, till Wine inflame them: Then they call for the Harp and the Viol, the Tabret and the Pipe, &c. But such regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands: A sad state! Wo unto them that are High to Drink Wine, and are Men of strength to mingle strong Drink. And therefore all are to shun such things; all are to be sober, and to mind and fear God, that they may escape these Woes: as you may see in Isaiah, chap. 5.*

And therefore all *Vintners* and such as sell *Wine*, with *Ale-houses*, *Inns* and *Victualling-houses*, who sell *Ale*, *Brandy* and *strong Liquors*, never let any one have any more than doth them good, and is for their *health* (as is said before) so that all may eat and drink the good *Creatures* of God to his *Praise* and *Glory*; which *Drunkards* and *Gluttons* cannot, nor they who let them have the *Creatures* of God in excess or immoderately, till they are *drunk* and *surfeited*, for such do feed themselves without the *Fear* of God.

**SECONDLY**, Let all who go under the Name of *Christian Families*, train up their *Children* in the *Fear* of God, and keep themselves in the *Fear* of God, that they may keep all their *Servants* and *Families* in the *Fear* of God; out of all *Looseness* and *Wantonness* and *Vanities* and *Excess*, and from all *Drunkenness*, *Fornication*, *Whoredom* or *Uncleaness*, and *Unrighteousness*, and all *Ungodliness*; that they may keep out of all those things, that displease or dishonour the Lord God. And do not *nourish* up the *Lust* of the *Eye*, nor the *Pride* of *Life*, nor the *Lust* of the *Flesh*; for if you do, you *nourish* up that which is not of God the Father. And therefore to shun all these *Evils*, and to depart from them, and keeping in the *Fear* of God; this is the way to bring the *Blessing* of God upon a *Land*, *Kingdom*, *Nation* or *Family*.

G. F.

*God will destroy them which destroy the Earth, Revel. II. 18.*

*Drunkenness makes a Man worse than a Beast, and makes a strong Man Weak, and a Wise man a Fool.*

*This Testimony and Warning was and is owned and subscribed by (many) Vintners and others, concerned in the Trades and Callings before mentioned, who were present at the reading of the Manuscript.*